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February 17, 2003
Date

Kevin L. Daffer

REQUEST FOR CONTINUED
EXAMINATION TRANSMITTAL (RCE)

Subsection(b) of 35 U.S.C. § 132, effective on May 29, 2000, provides for continued examination of a utility or plant application filed on or after June 8, 1995.

See The American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA).

Application Number 09/661,666

Filing Date September 14, 2000

First Named Inventor Jianmin Qiao et al.

Group Art Unit 2813

Examiner Name T. Pham

Atty Docket Number 5298-04100

Title METHOD OF FORMING SELF ALIGNED CONTACTS

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application.

NOTE: 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 is effective on May 29, 2000. If the above-identified application was filed prior to May 29, 2000, applicant may wish to consider filing a continued prosecution application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(d) (PTO/SR/29) instead of an RCE to be eligible for the patent term adjustment provisions of the AIPA. See *Changes to Application Examination and Provisional Application Practice*, Final Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 50092 (Aug. 16, 2000); Interim Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 14865 (Mar. 20, 2000), 1233 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 47 (Apr. 11, 2000), which established RCE practice.

1. Submission required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114

a. ☒ Previously submittedi. ☒ Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 previously filed on January 21, 2003. ✓ii. ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on _____.iii. ☐ Other _____b. ☐ Enclosedi. ☐ Amendment/Replyii. ☐ Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)iii. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)iv. ☐ Other _____

2. Miscellaneous

a. ☐ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.103(c) for a period of _____ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(f) required)b. ☐ Other _____

3. Fees (The RCE fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e) is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 when the RCE is filed)

a. ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 03-2769/5298-04100.i. ☒ RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e)ii. ☐ Extension of time fee (37 C.F.R. §§ 1.136 and 1.17)iii. ☐ Other _____b. ☐ Check in the amount of \$ _____ is enclosed.c. ☐ Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

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FEB 17 2003

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

Respectfully submitted,

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PTO/SB/00 (08-00)
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iii. ☐ Other _____

b. ☐ Enclosed

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